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Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society of North America

The Editors of *American Scientist* do not accept responsibility for or necessarily agree with the views expressed in the articles published in its pages; they do accept responsibility for ascertaining that articles meet the highest standards of scientific accuracy and rigor.

Cover A pack of wolves, one wearing a radio-collar, travels its territory in Minnesota. See "Scent-Marking in Wolves," by Roger P. Peters and L. David Mech, p. 628. (Photograph by L. David Mech.)

A headquarters organization to serve Sigma Xi members

Although the headquarters operations of Sigma Xi are easily taken for granted, they provide the glue that holds our society together. Headquarters bears most of the responsibility for the retention of our 118,600 active members and for the reactivation of lost members. In this effort, it processes 30–40,000 address changes per year and keeps records on some 69,500 inactive members whose addresses are known. This year it processed 7,600 Sigma Xi initiates and more than 1,000 promotions. Further, it maintains a permanent file of the correspondence with each member and is ever ready to assist individual members with special problems. Such services include arranging changes in chapter or club affiliation and aiding with the promotion of deserving Associate Members who left school before becoming full Members.

The headquarters office serves 512 chapters and clubs, handling correspondence with officers, calculating and transmitting chapter and club rebates, and providing each chapter and club with an annual list of its members and with mailing labels. The Lectureship Program, the Grants-in-Aid of Research Program, and the Chapter-at-Large are kept running smoothly through the efforts of headquarters staff. And in between these activities, the staff helps organize the National Meeting, works closely with the officers and directors of Sigma Xi, and prepares the minutes of committee meetings and of the Assembly of Delegates.

The purpose of this message is to call attention to the industrious and loyal headquarters staff and the services they render. A dedicated and well-organized staff of unusual competence, operating under good leadership, is required to perform the various functions without lapsing into chaos. Also, in the background is a well-managed, very sophisticated computer setup that can print out a complete membership record on any member within a few seconds. Sigma Xi could not exist without a headquarters staff to maintain contact with our members in an efficient and unobtrusive way. Keep in mind that this staff is there to serve you, the individual member. If you have a problem with which you believe they could be of help, write to them.

Frederick E. Terman

President